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Comments: To those developing the PNW Forest Plan updates:

The prior plan has served us well, protecting the future old growth and most importantly providing carbon sink to combat climate warming. There is evidence that the temperate forests in the NW are more effective than the Amazon.

Please do not give into the current federal administration's desire to cut. Rather, a reasonable plan with local foresters and scientists can manage forests for products and protection of our recreation, climate, and mental health lands for us all.

The Forest Service must reject plans to weaken core protections of the Northwest Forest Plan, and do the following:

- * Strengthen protections for mature and old-growth forests to ensure habitat, water quality, and carbon storage, and recruit more mature and old forests to restore a functional ecosystem.

- * Maintain or expand protections for the network of forest reserves to allow natural processes to flourish, ensure connectivity for wildlife, and support the recovery of imperiled species. Any reduction in forest reserve protections would increase harmful impacts such as habitat destruction, sediment in streams, and carbon loss, further endangering sensitive ecosystems.

- * Genuinely consult with Tribes, (list specifics) respect their sovereignty, and provide resources to support their full participation in decision-making. The Forest Service must support co-stewardship agreements, cultural burning practices, first food harvesting, and youth education while ensuring equitable access to planning processes. Pairing these components with the Forest Service's plan for weakened environmental protections is a false choice manufactured by the agency.

- * Address environmental justice by analyzing impacts on air, water, and communities and ensuring fair, sustainable working conditions.

- * Shift wildfire strategies to prioritize community safety and proven prevention measures over logging. Logging in WA, OR and Northern CA temperate forests need different management from fire than drier climates.

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